Numb. 160

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

From *Saturday April* 15. to *Tuesday April* 18. 1710.

From my own Apartment, April 17.

A Common Civility to an impertinent Fellow often draws upon one a great many unforeseen Troubles; and if one doth not take particular Care, will be interpreted by him as an Overture of Friendship and Intimacy. This I was very sensible of this Morning. About Two Hours before Day, I heard a great Rapping at my Door, which continued some Time, till my Maid could get her self ready to go down and see what was the Occasion of it. She then brought me up Word, That there was a Gentleman who seemed very much in haste, and said, he must needs speak with me. By the Description she gave me of him, and by his Voice, which I could hear as I lay in my Bed, I fancied him to be my old Acquaintance the Upholsterer, whom I met the other Day in St. *James's Park*. For which Reason, I bid her tell the Gentleman, whoever he was, that I was indispos'd; that I could see no Body; and that if he had any Thing to say to me, I desired he would leave it in Writing. My Maid, after having delivered her Message, told me, That the Gentleman said he would stay at the next Coffee-house till I was stirring; and bid her be sure to tell me, That the *French* were driven from the *Scarp*, and that *Douay* was invested. He gave her the Name of another Town, which I found she had dropped by the Way.

As much as I love to be informed of the Success of my brave Countrymen, I do not care for hearing of a Victory before Day, and was therefore very much out of Humour at this unseasonable Visit. I had no sooner recovered my Temper, and was falling asleep, but I was immediately startled by a Second Rap; and upon my Maid's opening the Door, heard the same Voice ask her, if her Master was yet up; and at the same Time bid her tell me, That he was come on Purpose to talk with me about a Piece of Home-News, that every Body in Town will be full of Two Hours hence. I ordered the Maid, as soon as she came into the Room, without hearing her Message, to tell the Gentleman, That whatever her News is, I would rather hear it Two Hours hence than now; and that I persisted in my Resolution not to speak with any body that Morning. The Wench delivered my Answer pertinently, and shut the Door. It was impossible for me to compose my self to Sleep after Two such unexpected Alarms; for which Reason, I put on my Clothes in a very peevish Humour. I took several Turns about my Chamber, reflecting with a great deal of Anger and Contempt on these Voluntiers in Politicks, that undergo all the Pain, Watchfulness, and Disquiet, of a First Minister, without turning it to the Advantage either of themselves or their Country: And yet it is surprizing to consider how numerous this Species of Men is. There is nothing more frequent than to find a Taylor breaking his Rest on the Affairs of *Europe*, and to see a Cluster of Porters sitting upon the Ministry. Our Streets swarm with Politicians, and there is scarce a Shop which is not held by a Statesman. As I was musing after this Manner, I heard the Upholsterer at the Door delivering a Letter to my Maid, and begging her, in a very great Hurry, to give it to her Master as soon as ever he was awake, which I opened, and found as follows:

Mr. *Bickerstaff*,

'I Was to wait upon you about a Week ago, to let you know, That the honest Gentlemen whom you conversed with upon the Bench at the End of the *Mall*, having heard that I had received Five Shillings of you, to give you a Hundred Pounds upon the Great Turk's being driven out of *Europe*, desired me to acquaint you, That every one of that Company would be willing to receive Five Shillings, to pay a Hundred Pounds on the same Conditions. Our last Advices from *Muscovy* making this a fairer Bett than it was a Week ago, I don't question but you will accept the Wager.

'But this is not my present Business. If you remember, I whispered a Word in your Ear as we were walking up the *Mall*, and you see what has happened since. If I had seen you this Morning, I would have told you in your Ear another Secret. I hope you will be recovered of your Indisposition by to Morrow Morning, when I will wait on you at the same Hour as I did this; my private Circumstances being such, that I cannot well appear in this Quarter of the Town after it is Day.

'I have been so taken up with the late good News from *Holland*, and Expectation of further Particulars, as well as with other Transactions; of which I will tell you more to Morrow Morning, that I have not slept a Wink these Three Nights.

'I have Reason to believe, that *Picardy* will soon follow the Example of *Artois*, in case the Enemy continue in their present Resolution of flying away from us. I think I told you last time we were together my Opinion about the *Double*.

'The honest Gentlemen upon the Bench bid me tell you, they would be glad to see you often among them. We shall be there all the warm Hours of the Day during the present Posture of Affairs.

'This happy Opening of the Campaign will, I hope, give us a very joyful Summer; and I pro-

pose

'pose to take many a pleasant Walk with you, if 'you will sometimes come into the Park; for that 'is the only Place in which I can be free from the 'Malice of my Enemies. Farewel till Three a 'Clock to Morrow Morning.

I am

Your most humble Servant, &c.

P. S. The King of *Sweden* is still at *Bender*.

I should have fretted my self to Death at this Promise of a Second Visit, if I had not found in his Letter an Intimation of the good News which I have since heard at large. I have however ordered my Maid to tie up the Knocker of my Door, in such a Manner as she would do if I was really indisposed: By which Means, I hope to escape breaking my Morning's Rest.

Since I have given this Letter to the Publick, I shall communicate One or Two more which I have lately received from others of my Correspondents. The following is from a Coquet, who is very angry at my having disposed of her in Marriage to a Bass-Viol.

Mr. Bickerstaff,

'I Thought you would never have descended 'from the Censor of *Great Britain* to become a 'Match-maker. But pray, why so severe upon 'the Kitt. Had I been a Jews-Harp, that is no-'thing but Tongue, you could not have used me 'worse. Of all Things, a Bass-Viol is my Aver-'sion. Had you married me to a Bagpipe, or a 'Passing-Bell, I should have been better pleased. 'Dear Father *Isaac*, either chuse me a better Hus-'band, or I will live and die a Dulcimer. In 'Hopes of receiving Satisfaction from you, I am 'yours, whilst

Isabella Kitt.

The Pertness which this fair Lady hath shown in this Letter, was one Occasion of my joining her to the Bass-Viol, which is an Instrument that wants to be quicken'd by these little Vivacities, as the Sprightliness of the Kitt ought to be check'd and curb'd by the Gravity of the Bass-Viol.

My next Letter is from *Tom Folio*, who, it seems, takes it amiss that I have publish'd a Character of him so much to his Disadvantage.

SIR,

'I Suppose you meant *Tom Pool*, when you cal-'led me *Tom Folio*, in a late trifling Paper of 'yours; for I find, it is your Design to run down 'all useful and solid Learning. The Tobacco Pa-'per on which your own Writings are usually 'printed, as well as the Incorrectness of the Press, 'and the scurvy Letter, sufficiently show the Ex-'tent of your Knowledge. I question not but you 'look upon *John Morphew* to be as great a Man as '*Elzevir*; and *Aldus*, to have been such another 'as *Bernard Lintott*. If you would give me my 'Revenge, I would only desire of you to let me 'publish an Account of your Library, which, 'I dare say, would furnish out an extraordinary 'Catalogue.

T. Folio.

It hath been always my Way to baffle Reproach with Silence, tho' I cannot but observe the disingenuous Proceedings of this Gentleman, who is not content to asperse my Writings, but hath wounded through my Sides those eminent and worthy Citizens, Mr. *John Morphew*, and Mr. *Bernard Lintott*.

Advertisements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; by Subscriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be seen, and Subscriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Persons that design to subscribe to this Work, are desired to send in their Subscriptions, the Book being put to Press, in order to be publish'd with all Expedition.

TO satisfy Gentlemen and Ladies who it is that would impose, in Relation to those Men and Women's Gowns to be sold at the Olive-Tree and Still at Charing-Cross, advertis'd against in the Post-Man, with Invitation to Ludgate-Hill; If they please to enquire at any Shop on the said Hill, they may be satisfy'd that there is not a Quarter of the Choice, as there is in the Room at Charing-Cross; nor can they affirm so good Pennyworths, because upon Examination, these will be truly found to be the Goods of Persons that failed.

THese are to acquaint all Lovers of Art, That Mr. Rosse his Collection of Pictures, being of the most celebrated Masters, will be sold by Auction on Thursday the 20th Instant, at Ten of the Clock, at his House in Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden. The Pictures to be seen this Day and to Morrow; where Catalogues will be given. After which, his Drawings, Prints, and other Curiosities, will be sold by Auction.

*** This Day is published, The London new Method and Art of teaching Children to spell and read, so as they may, without the Help of any other Books, read the Bible in less than 12 Months. Price bound 6d. Printed for E. Parker at the Bible and Crown in Lombard-street.

*** This Day is publish'd, A Letter to Mr. Benj. Robinson, occasioned by his Review of the Case of Liturgies, and their Imposition. By Tho. Benner, M. A. Rector of St. James's in Colchester. Printed for J. Knapton at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, and sold by Edm. Jeffery, Bookseller in Cambridge: Where may be had Mr. Bennet's Paraphrase on the Common-Prayer, and all his other Books.

*** New Musick this Day publish'd, Mr. Pepusch's Airs for Two Flutes, made on purpose for the Improvement of Practitioners in Consort. The whole fairly engraven: Also the Airs and Duets in the Opera's of Pyrrhus and Clotilda, contrived and fitted for Two Flutes. Likewise the Airs in the Opera of Almahide for a single Flute: All engraven and printed for J. Walsh, Servant in Ordinary to Her Majesty, and P. Randall, at the Harp and Hautboy in Catherine-street near Somerset-House in the Strand, and J. Hare at the Viol and Flute in Cornhil.

*** Lately printed, being us'd in Schools, A short Way to know the World, or the Rudiments of Geography; being a new familiar Method of teaching Youth the Knowledge of the Globe, and the Four Quarters of the World. Printed for Thomas Osborne in Grays-Inn next the Walks. Pr. bound 2 s.

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*** Just publish'd for the Use of Schools, The Second Edition of a Guide to the English Tongue, in Two Parts. The First, shewing a natural and easie Method to pronounce and express both Common Words and Proper Names; in which particular Care is had to shew the Accent, for preventing vicious Pronunciation. The Second, containing Observations on the Sound of Letters and Diphthongs. Rules for the true Division of Syllables, and the Use of Capitals, Stops and Marks: With large Tables of Abbreviations and Distinctions of Words; and several Alphabets of Instructions for young Writers. By T. Dyche, Schoolmaster in London. Printed for S. Butler at Bernard's-Inn-Gate in Holborn. Price 1 s.

A Sale of Lace, to be seen at the Lace-Chamber on Ludgate Hill, Fine Brussel's Heads, with all sorts of fine Figures on them, and all sorts of fine Mechlin's for Heads, Cravats, and Ruffles. One Brussel's Head at 40 l. One Ground Brussel's Head at 30 l. One Loop'd Brussel's Head at 30 l. Three Lots at 20 l. each: Fourteen Lots at 10 l. each: Twenty Lots at 5 l. each: Twenty Lots at 4 l. each: Forty Lots at 3 l. each: Hundred Lots at 2 l. each: Two Hundred Lots at 1 l. each. Nineteen to One, Two Shillings and Sixpence per Lot.

A Barbet and Periwig-maker having left off his Trade, his Utensils are to be sold at reasonable Rates; and good Choice of Wigs, both Light and Brown, all made of new Hair, at the Corner of New Rents, over against the Queen's Arms Tavern in St. Martin's le Grand.

A Perfect Cure for the Asthma by an Elixir, (a pleasant and innocent Medicine) to be taken in Drops, which has done Wonders in that Case; but the Author's saying so being not so convincing as trying it will be, he desires you would for your own Sakes, when, if it does no Good, can do no Harm to the Body, nor much to the Purse, in laying out 3 s. 6 d. which is the Price of a Bottle. To be had only at Mr. Lawrence's, a Toy-shop at the Griffin the Corner of Bucklersbury, Poultry.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertisements are taken in.